

## INDOORS AND OUT.

The Farm, Orchard, Garden and Household.

## HINTS AND NOTES FOR ALL.

Seed Potatoes - Vegetables - Clover -  
Polling Cattle - Bee Food -  
Starch Making.

Mustard will cleanse the hands after handling odorous substances.

Lime powder well sprinkled where mosquitoes abound will drive them away.

To relieve hoarseness and tickling in the throat: Make a gargle of the white of an egg beaten to a froth, adding a half-glass of sweetened, lukewarm water.

A heavy soil is best for fruits generally, and the best results are from deep ploughing and subsoiling, to allow the roots to penetrate deeply in search of moisture during dry weather. Figs and poultry running at large are our efficient allies in the war against injurious insects.

A correspondent of the Orange County Farmer says he prevents the white grub from destroying his strawberry plants by planting between the rows a number of lettuce plants. The grubs like the roots of the latter best, and will let the strawberry alone if fed with them. Put out the lettuce as early as possible in the spring.

Clover should never be sown in the late summer or in the autumn. Its tap root cannot penetrate to a sufficient depth in so short a time to allow it to stand the winter properly, and if the soil is inclined to be heavy it is altogether better to sow both grass and clover early in the spring. If no other crop is sown with it a fair crop of grass may be cut the same season it is sown.

It is the testimony of those who keep polled cattle that they are milder in character and more easily handled than horned cattle; besides this, such animals are never worrying others of their kind, never hooking sheep and horses and are altogether more profitable from this cause than the common stock. It would seem then worth while for farmers and stockmen to make further inquiry into the question of dehorning cattle if it may be accomplished at so little trouble and with so good results.

One thing that may cause the loss of many valuable horses at this time of the year, is ignorance or carelessness, that results in their catching cold. Horses are exercised too violently, perhaps, and then allowed to grow cold suddenly. That is all wrong, such treatment is likely to kill a man, and it is just as dangerous for a horse. After my horses are exercised they are warmly blanketed, and my boys lead them around my stables more and more slowly. A horse wants to cool off gradually.

The Farmer's Review says: Pear blight is the source of much annoyance to fruit-growers. Of late years it has been recommended to seed down a pear orchard to grass as a preventive of blight. The editor of the *Georgetown Telegraph* says: We never had a tree to blight in grass, though they were of all ages, from three years up to one hundred and seventy-five, and of about ten varieties, while scarcely a year passes in which we do not lose one or more by blight in cultivated grounds.

Persons who raise cattle on farms will always enjoy a monopoly in supplying the market with choice beef. The flesh of cattle unprotected from storms and compelled to pick up their living during droghs and through the winter will necessarily be greatly inferior to that of cattle raised on farms where they are protected from storms and cold, supplied with water at all times, and furnished with all the food they need. It costs no more to transport an animal that sells for six cents per pound than one that brings but half that sum. There are but few legitimate branches of business that pay better or are attended by fewer risks than that of raising cattle on the comparatively cheap lands in the west.—E.

I never sow lettuce seed in drills, but always sow broadcast, and give the plants plenty of room by thinning for use as the plants grow. The beds being narrow the thinning is easily done. I never try to have the distance between the plants exactly equal, but simply keep them from crowding. In this way I have grown very large heads without hoeing, and as the plants keep the ground shaded, no weeding is required. Heads can be kept from going to seed for quite a while by cutting about half way through the stem at its base, leaving the plant just enough exposed to prevent the roots from rotting. When the heat of summer arrives, lettuce must have a cool, partly shaded situation, and an abundance of water. This is the secret of raising fine heads of lettuce in hot weather. Try the north side of a building or tight fence, or a frame artificially shaded, and you will be surprised at what can be done at raising lettuce even in midsummer.—Wm. H. Newman.

Every bee-keeper should scatter motherwort, catnip, dandelion, spiderwort, rose clover, and Rocky Mountain bee plant seed in all the waste places about the apiary. These are harmless plants to the farmer, and as their presence adds to the wealth of the country, he is a benefactor who causes their introduction and growth. Our bee-keepers should stimulate the growth of these clovers. Let them see that the ladies have an abundance of pig-nose in the garden; and ever bear in mind that raspberries give us a luscious fruit, which costs very little, and more—furnishes the bees with nectar that equals that of clovers and basswood, when converted into honey. The blackberry Mountain bee plant and niggonette do well on light sandy soil; grow rapidly and spider plant do very poorly. It is well to note the natural soil of the plant, and if we wish to change its habit, do it gradually, that the transition be not too violent. Figs grow naturally on rich, heavy soil. To change it at once to lightest land is a very abrupt transition.—E.

While the subject of selection of seed potatoes is discussed every year by intelligent farmers, when planting time comes, the rule is that no attention is given to the conclusions drawn from the discussions, but seed for planting is taken from whatever potatoes chance to

come. Sometimes this may be a good policy, but as a rule it is a very bad one.

The Farmer's Review says: We have carefully watched the results of experiments in raising potatoes in the past two or three years, and summing them all up, reach the following conclusion, which accord with our own experience: First—There is not enough difference in the vitality and productive quality of the eyes taken from different parts of the potato to warrant the selection of some and rejection of others.

Second—Planting whole seed does not give increased yields sufficient to warrant the use of so great an amount of seed.

Third—Cutting to single eyes and planting two pieces to the hill, twelve to sixteen inches apart gives the best average results in marketable potatoes.

Fourth—Potatoes require a deep, mellow seed-bed with mellow soil below, and on either side as well as over them.

Fifth—Fresh, unfermented manures are injurious to the quality of the crop. The stable manure used should be thoroughly rotted and well incorporated with the soil.

Sixth—Of special manures, wood ashes, salt, ground bone and gypsum have given good results, though on some soils they might be scarcely perceptible.

Seventh—Moderately deep planting and level culture is better on most soils than shallow planting and hilling up.

Making good starch is a necessary accomplishment of a house wife. Here are explicit directions from an exchange: Take an earthenware bowl holding three quarts, dissolve in it two large spoonfuls of best clear starch, with a cup of cold water. Have your kettle boiling. On this depends the whole matter; the steam must not only be coming out of the spout, but do you lift the lid and see that the water is bubbling. Take the kettle from the fire and pour rapidly on the thoroughly dissolved starch till it turns the color of cooled starch. Stir rapidly all the while and be careful to pour on only enough water to make the starch of the right thickness. I take some of the starch out of the bowl and thin it with cold water. After dipping the collars, cuffs, etc., in that I rub some of the thicker starch on the wrong side. I sometimes add a few drops of bluing, sometimes a pinch of salt, sometimes I stir the starch round two or three times with a candle. I always put in, however, turpentine in the proportion of a small teaspoonful to two quarts of starch. I can assure you if you follow the directions given, your clothes will iron most beautifully.

You will see by the recipe there is no need to place a bowl anywhere near the fire. Boiling starch during minutes is only a waste of time and labor. There is another advantage in the way I have mentioned. It takes such a little while to make it, and fresh starch is so much nicer than after it has stood an hour. For a large washing you can make it two or three times if necessary.

For the best success a series of plantings of vegetables should be made, commencing with radishes and lettuce. Plant as early in the season as the weather will permit, always bearing in mind that it is folly to put seeds in the ground when it is cold and wet. A planting of radishes should be made every ten days until the first of June, after which time do not plant again until September, as in this climate radishes in midsummer are worthless. Peas should also be sown in succession from the first of June. Plant a few at a time, in order that the whole crop may be consumed when in the best possible condition; it is far better to eat canned peas than half-ripened ones from the vines. A planting of peas can be made to advantage after early potatoes, if the proper kinds are selected, and for the purpose "Henderson's First of all," or others of that class are best. It is folly to plant so late the large, wrinkled varieties, as a crop of mildew would be secured in September instead of a delicious vegetable. Two plantings of beets in spring and one in August will keep up a succession of this vegetable, tender and sweet. Sweet corn should be planted every week, say twenty hills at a time, from the first of May till the middle of July. This will afford an ample supply for nearly three months. Beans should be planted at intervals of three weeks, the last planting to be made about the middle of July. This crop, if not wanted for snap-beans, can be used to good advantage for pickling.

A small planting of strap leaf turnip should be made as early as possible in the season, and another on the ground where the early peas were grown. A later planting can be made, as well as one of rutabagas, where the early potatoes were grown. In any warm places, if such there are in the garden, small patch of spinach should be cultivated, if for no other purpose than to turn under as a vegetable manure. It is of the greatest importance to make an early and late planting of tomatoes. For the first, put out strong, stocky plants; for the second, drop a seed or two in each hill of early corn, and as soon as the corn is done cut the stalks to the ground, and a splendid crop of tomatoes will be secured, which will be very useful after the first has ripened its best fruit.

By this method of planting the garden will yield more than double its usual crop, and the vegetables will be far better than the struggling, tough, indigestible things usually gathered. Besides, it will add greatly to the pleasure of gardening, to have everything look fresh and healthy the whole season.—E.

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